

A GLIMPSE OF WYOMING.

THE STORY OF JIM BRIDGER AND THE FORT HE ESTABLISHED.

A Description of the Bad Lands and Some of Their Curious Fossil Remains and Archaeological Treasures—Looks Like Some Ruined City of the Gods.

Many years ago—way back in the forties, in fact—old Gen. Ashley, accompanied by the well known trapper and mountaineer, Jim Bridger, turned west from the Sheekadee, or Green river. After following one of its numerous tributaries, called Henry's Fork, for the distance of about thirty miles, they changed their course and proceeded due north, to find themselves one day upon the ridge of steep bluffs overlooking the valleys of Smith's and Black's Forks, and upon the latter stream they decided to establish a trading post. Gen. Ashley was supposed to have been at that time in the employ of the American Fur company, and for some reason or other soon retraced his steps eastward, leaving Jim Bridger in possession of the valley that now bears his name.

Jim, with a spirit of pardonable pride, called his camp "Fort Bridger." He married a wife, built a hut of woven willows and logs, after the fashion of his Indian neighbors, and for several years carried on a most successful traffic with the Indians and the emigrants, chiefly Mormons, who began to settle in the vicinity.

Among the guides and trappers who, during the years following its establishment, made Fort Bridger their headquarters, were two Frenchmen, named Gosha (presumably a contraction of Gauthier) and Mariano, known by their comrades as the "toad eatin' parley voos." They were perhaps the first to discover certain very minute weapons and crude tools of stone and iron upon the plateau of Smith's Fork, and interpreted to the following fantastic Indian legends concerning their origin and utility. A race of giants had formerly inhabited the hills and heights, and waged war upon the eagles. They fashioned spears and arrows upon the eagles. They stored away in numerous caves and crevasses the finest of steel and iron, and fought valiantly for their existence. But in the end the eagles were victorious, and devoured their ill-fated adversaries with pitiless voracity. Then in after years the rains washed down the weapons, and the Indians made use of them for petty traffic and various games.

Since 1868 the tertiary beds in the vicinity of Bridger have proved of primary importance to geologists and paleontologists in all parts of the world, and Professor Geikie, of Edinburgh, in the interesting sketch he published of his journey through the United States, speaks of the intense eagerness with which he had always looked forward to visiting the "most wonderful fossil beds of the world—the cretaceous and tertiary deposits of northwestern America." The field of fossil specimens, in fact, has equalled that of the famous terroir mauvais of Dakota, and extensive research by Professor Hayden, Professor Marsh, Dr. Leidy and other noted scientists have brought to light an especial fauna, the former existence of which was unknown.

Among the earlier and more important fossils discovered in the Green river and Bridger basins were flies, fishes, insects and shells—especially the long, gracefully shaped oyster shells, so abundant in central and northern Europe, known as "Ladies' Fingers." A most remarkable specimen was the feather of a bird which Professor Marsh regarded as unique and of great value. Many species of turtle were discovered, the vertebrae of crocodiles, and in the intervening years, the cranial bones of a mammoth extinct animal to which Professor Marsh gave the generic appellation of *Dinoceras*, and which Dr. Leidy, on the other hand, designated as the *Uintatherium*. Some impression of the size of the specimens may be gained when it is stated that the finely preserved tusks are twenty inches long and the jaw bones, showing the perfectly enameled teeth and deep fangs, measure over a foot in length.

To Dr. J. Van A. Carter, residing at Fort Bridger, and Dr. Corson, of the army, is due the credit of having discovered many of the finest fossil specimens to be seen in the paleontological collections of the Smithsonian Institution and the Academy of Science, of New York, and to the remains of a small animal similar to the European hedgehog, forwarded by Dr. Carter to Dr. Leidy, in honor of its discoverer. The "moose agate" beds are especially numerous around Bridger, and occasionally stones of great beauty, which would take an extraordinary polish, were sold for \$50 and \$75. Bits of amber, resembling the murky gems found on the coast of Palestine, are now and then picked up, and a few beautiful specimens of opals have been found among the Uintah mountains.

In appearance, the "bad lands" of Bridger basin more nearly resemble the ruins of the Nile, near the confines of the desert, than any other natural formation or artificial constructions visited by the tourist of the present day. Though deficient in great historic interest, the indescribable grandeur and picturesqueness of the locality, apart from the curiosity excited by scientific research, make exploration in the "bad lands" a delight to all artists and lovers of beauty in its most savage form.

Professor Denton's brief but graphic description cannot be improved upon, so I give it here:

"Looking from the summit of a high ridge on the east, a tract of country containing 500 or 600 square miles is distinctly visible. Over the whole surface is rock, bare rocks cut into ravines, canyons, gorges and valleys, in magnificent relief, terrace on terrace, pyramid above pyramid, rising to mountain heights, amphitheatres that would hold a million spectators, walls, pillars, towers, castles everywhere. It looks like some ruined city of the gods, blasted, bare, desolate, but grand beyond a mortal's telling."—Fort Bridger (Wyo.) Cor. Omaha World-Herald.

Their Business Booming.

Probably no one thing has caused such a general revival of trade at Budwell & Christian's drug store as their giving away to their customers of so many free trial bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. Their trade is simply enormous in this very valuable article from the fact that it always cures and never disappoints. Coughs, colds, asthma, bronchitis, croup and all throat and lung diseases quickly cured. You can test it before buying by getting a trial bottle free. Large size \$1. Every bottle warranted.

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Who have used Clarke's Extract of Flax (Papillon) Skin Care award it the first and highest place as a remedial agent in all cases of skin diseases. Eruptions, Eczema, Pimples, unsightly blotches, humiliating eruptions, Boils, Carbuncles, Tetter, etc., all yield to this wonderful preparation at once. Price, \$1 for a large bottle at Johnson & Johnson's Drug Store. Clarke's Flax Soap is good for the skin. Try it. Price, 25 cents.

"Do ole man's in dar."

"Your husband?"

"Yes, died two days ago back yere in the kentry."

"And what are you doing with the body here?"

"I wants to bury it up at Charlestown, but I hain't got money 'nuff to take it on de railroad."

"What nonsense!" exclaimed a man, as he came forward. "What's the difference where a nigger is buried? They want her to bury it here, but she won't. She's determined to take it to Charlestown."

"For what reason?" asked the passenger who had put all the previous questions.

"Kase, sah, all de fo' chill'n is buried up dar, an' his mudder an' suster, an' de po' ole man will be lonesome down yere."

"What bosh!" growled the kicker.

"Look here!" whispered the other, as he went over to him, "I'd rather be a nigger with her soul than to be a white man with yours! She's right. Let the family dead sleep together."

He entered the express office, paid for the shipment of the body, bought the widow a ticket to Charlestown, and then dropped a \$10 gold piece in her hand and said:

"Give him a decent funeral, mammy, and this will put up a headboard to mark the grave."

"May the good Lawd bless you for!"

But he hurried in to snatch a bite to eat. While he was gone I made inquiries as to his identity, and finally found a man who replied:

"Why, that's Col. Blank, of Alabama. He owned over three hundred niggers when the war broke out."—New York Sun

Our Native Tree Fruits.

Take our cherries to begin with. We have, first, the shrubby choke cherry, which unquestionably might become the parent of an improved dwarf ironclad fruit, either directly developed from the best among the wildlings, or aided by crossings with foreign species. The dwarf Black Hills cherry, probably the largest of our natives, would, perhaps, cross well with the choke cherry. Among the innumerable wild "bird cherries," even in the wild state, selections could easily be made of trees producing very large and good fruit, with which to make an advantageous start, while the black cherry might be made the foundation for another race similar to the foreign heart cherries.

When we come to the plums it is seen at once that nature has laid a broad foundation for us to build upon in our variant native species—east, west and south—selections from which are already widely cultivated. It is easy to believe that from these can be deduced fruit far superior to and widely different from anything yet known. It would not be surprising to see plums from this stock reaching eventually the size and quality of the apricot, with a vigor of tree far beyond that of any foreign stone fruit.

With this abundant material, and all the acquired skill of modern science, and with these natives and all their relatives from other continents to work with, our skilled horticulturists ought to produce remarkable results within a comparatively brief time.—Vick's Magazine.

Uses of Ants.

Ants are terrible fighters. They have very powerful jaws, considering the size of their bodies, and therefore their method of fighting is by biting. They will bite one another and hold on with a wonderful grip of the jaws, even after their legs have been bitten off by other ants. Sometimes six or eight ants will be clinging with a death grip to one another, making a peculiar spectacle, some with a leg gone, and some with half the body gone. One singular fact is that the grip of an ant's jaw is retained even after the body has been bitten off and nothing but the head remains. This knowledge is possessed by a certain tribe of Indians in Brazil, South America, who put the ants to a very peculiar use.

When an Indian gets a gash cut in his hand, instead of having his hand sewed together as the physicians do in this country, he procures five or six large black ants, and, holding their heads near the gash, they bring their jaws together in biting the flesh, and thus pull the two sides of the gash together. Then the Indian pinches off the bodies of the ants, and leaves their heads clinging to the flesh, which is held together until the gash is perfectly healed.—Interview in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Woman's Club.

You men have numerous clubs to which you can go and spend your leisure hours, while we poor creatures are supposed to spend our spare time at home. I have been long thinking of forming some sort of organization for ladies where they may go in the afternoon and have a good time just like the men. In the evening we could have receptions for our gentlemen friends. Of course, we would have tea and coffee rooms instead. A club of that sort would be heartily indorsed by numerous well known society leaders.—Society Belle in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Always on Time.

The rigid punctuality of Washington was illustrated by an incident during his visit to Boston just a hundred years ago. Having appointed 8 o'clock in the morning as the hour at which he should set out for Salem, he mounted his horse just as the Old South clock was striking that hour. The company of cavalry which was to escort him did not arrive till after his departure, and did not overtake him till he had reached Charles river bridge. —San Francisco Argonaut.

A Valuable Remedy.

A letter from S. P. Wardwell, Bos. says: "I used Clarke's Extract of Flax (Papillon) Catarrh Cure in June last for Hay Fever without satisfaction, and find it the only thing I have seen which would allay, without irritating, the inflammation of the nostrils and throat. Its soothing and healing properties were in marked and immediate relief." Large bottle, \$1. Clarke's Flax Soap is the latest and best. Price, 25 cents. Ask for them at Johnson & Johnson's Drug Store.

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AN ORDINANCE.

At a meeting of the council of the city of Roanoke, held December 10th, 1899, the following ordinance was adopted:

1. That the council of the city of Roanoke do open a poll at the several voting places of said city on Tuesday, the 28th day of January, 1900, and take the sense of the freehold voters on the question, whether the said council shall be authorized, in the name of and for the use of the city, to cause to be issued, bonds to an amount not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of making a second and further subscription to the capital stock of the Roanoke and Southern Railway company.

2. The said election shall be held and the authority to issue bonds and make said subscription shall be upon the following terms and conditions: 1. The said council may subscribe for the stock of said company to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars; provided, that in doing so the aggregate debt of the city shall not exceed ten per centum of the assessed value of the property, real and personal, within the city limits.

11. That the said company shall within ninety days after the said subscription shall be made, commence to construct its line of road at its terminus in said city of Roanoke, or within one mile of the city limits and shall prosecute the same in a bona-fide manner with all reasonable diligence to its completion.

12. The bonds of the city of Roanoke shall bear 6 per cent. interest and shall be redeemable in thirty years, and shall be issued and delivered to a trustee, to be agreed upon between the council of the city of Roanoke and the president of the Roanoke and Southern Railway.

13. The bonds of the city of Roanoke shall be delivered to the said trustee upon the certificate of the chief engineer of said railway of the completion of the grading of such Roanoke city southward shall deliver to said railway the bonds of said city to the amount of \$5,000 and upon like certificate of the engineer for each and every mile of said road when the superstructure is completed, and ready for operation, the said trustee shall deliver to said railway bonds to the amount of \$5,000 per mile until the entire sum of \$100,000 provided for in this ordinance shall be delivered.

14. Upon the delivery of the bonds of the said city to the said trustee the railway company shall deliver to the said trustee certificates of stock in said railway to the full amount of said bonds.

15. The subscription when made by the city council shall be upon the terms and conditions herein set forth, and should the said company fail to comply with said terms and conditions, then, and in that event, the said subscription, at the option of said city, shall be void.

16. The election shall be held and conducted in the manner provided for under section 1243 and 1244 of the code of Virginia, and the question submitted shall be determined under the provisions of section 50, chapter V. of the charter of said city.

17. The council shall cause a certified copy of this ordinance to be published in the daily papers of this city, and shall post a copy thereof at each of the voting places for thirty days previous to the day of election.

A copy—test.

GEO. L. BENNETT, Clerk.

In obedience to the foregoing order, notice is hereby given that the polls will be opened at the several voting precincts of the city of Roanoke at sunrise on

TUESDAY, JAN. 28, 1899

for a vote to be taken as specified in said law.

C. W. THOMAS, Sergeant.

Roanoke, December 13th, 1899.

dec'd till Jan 29

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